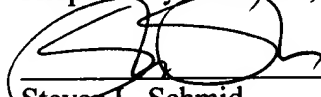


Applicants respectfully assert that the present application does not lack unity. The polymer binder claimed in the present application is comprised of an elastomer having at least one polyolefin and at least one graft copolymer. In contrast, the adhesive blend described in the '410 reference is not based on an elastomer, but a thermoplastic material. The polymeric binder of the floor covering of the present application is based on at least one polyolefin having a density of $<0.910 \text{ g/cm}^3$ and at least one graft copolymer cross-linked using an aromatic-free organic peroxide and optionally one or more co-crosslinking agent like triallylisocyanurate and trimethylolpropantrimethacrylate, giving rise to an elastomer used in a floor covering. Applicants note that column 2, lines 54 to 67, of the '410 reference discloses that the graft copolymer is further reacted with diamine compounds. Furthermore, the '410 reference is not directed to floor covering and only discloses adhesive blends containing a graft copolymer and a polyethylene of lower density.

Applicants assert that the technical feature stated by the PTO does define a contribution over the prior art and that the present application does not lack unity. Accordingly, reconsideration of the restriction requirement is respectfully requested.

3/26/02
Date

Respectfully submitted,


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Cheryl West